

2020-2021

Annual Report

WARD 1 OFFICE



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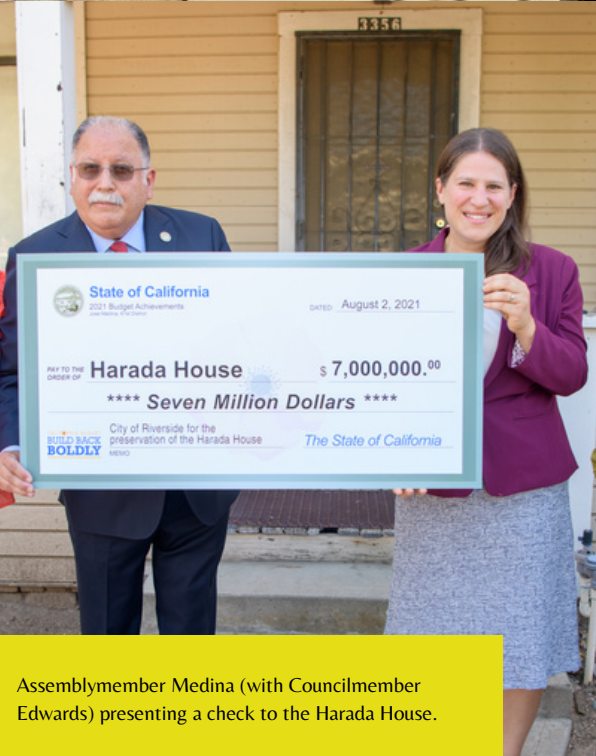




Councilmember Edwards discussing challenges and opportunities along the Santa Ana River Bottom during a film screening in June 2021.



Councilmember Edwards touring CARES Act-funded affordable housing units on 10th St.



Assemblymember Medina (with Councilmember Edwards) presenting a check to the Harada House.

NEIGHBORHOODS

To increase park and neighborhood safety, Councilmember Edwards advocated for a **Park Ranger Program**, which formally passed in June 2021. Councilmember Edwards worked with City staff to build more bollards along the Santa Ana River Trail, which has **reduced illegal cars and motorized vehicles along the river bottom by 70%**. Councilmember Edwards supported **funding for street paving** in the Northside neighborhood, and along Magnolia, Jurupa, and Olivewood. One year since Council passed the **Northside Specific Plan**, Councilmember Edwards is working on a process with neighbors to choose a master developer and ensure maximum community benefit. So that residents can both live and work in Riverside, Councilmember Edwards championed a policy, which passed in October 2021, that prioritizes **local hiring** for the development of surplus City land. Councilmember Edwards serves as the **liaison to the Riverside Neighborhood Partnership**.

HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS

Responding to one of Riverside's biggest challenges, Ward 1 is the site of innovative homeless solutions: 10 tiny cottages at **Mulberry Village** with Habitat for Humanity, 6 affordable housing units on **10th Street**, 78 total recuperative care & mental health beds through partnerships with **Illumination Foundation & Helping Hearts** at Riverside's Hulen Campus, 72 units for veterans and families at **Mission Heritage Plaza**, and 49 units for LGBTQ youth and seniors at **TruEvolution's Project Legacy**.

Councilmember Edwards chaired the Council's Housing & Homelessness Committee, spearheading a **5-Year Plan to Reduce Homelessness**, which was conceptually approved by the City Council in October 2021. Councilmember Edwards worked with City staff to engage the community on the **6th Cycle Housing Element**, where Ward 1 neighbors participated more than any other Ward. Councilmember Edwards spearheaded Riverside's letter of support, encouraging the Riverside County Board of Supervisors to opt in to **Laura's Law**. Through the Second District Housing Collaborative, Councilmember Edwards championed a **regional homelessness encampment response strategy for the river bottom**, advocating for millions of dollars in State and Federal funding.

CULTURE & INNOVATION

Riverside is thriving, and Ward 1 is the epicenter of arts, culture, and innovation. The opening of the **new Main Library** downtown in June 2021 was a community celebration for the history books, making it possible for the **Cheech Marin Center for Chicano Arts, Culture, and Industry** to begin construction at the site of the old library. In August 2021, Riverside commemorated **20 years of the Dosan Ahn Chang Ho Memorial Statue** on the Downtown Mall with the Inland Korean American Association, and the Museum of Riverside was honored to receive a \$7M State allocation for the **rehabilitation of the Harada House**.

Innovating in sustainability, Councilmember Edwards supported **subsidies for electric vehicles and charging stations** to help residents and businesses go green. The Northside of Ward 1 is building upon its agricultural roots with **Northside Heritage Meadows**, which hosted its first open house in June 2021 and will plant nearly 500 trees, train and incubate the next generation of farmers. These 8.8 acres will also honor the life of Ward 1 resident Nick Melquiades, who passed away from COVID this year, with a 24-plot community garden.

INCLUSIVE & ACCESSIBLE CITY

Councilmember Edwards worked with the Mayor to officially honor **National Women's History Month** (March) and, for the first time in Riverside's history, **Pride Month** (June). After working with staff members to improve Riverside's score on the Human Rights Campaign's Municipal Equality Index, Councilmember Edwards is proud that Riverside received the **highest possible score for LGBTQ inclusion** in December 2020. In September 2021, Councilmember Edwards supported policies to **remove barriers for street vendors**, ensuring conversations at the dais were translated in both English and Spanish.

Councilmember Edwards hosted **neighborhood coffees, monthly office hours, and mini-office hours** both in person and virtually. Councilmember Edwards presents at **neighborhood meetings** and continues to publish a **monthly e-newsletter and regular social media posts** to keep neighbors up-to-date on the latest policies. To increase engagement in the policies that impact our daily lives, Councilmember Edwards hosted the first ever **retreat for Ward 1 Commissioners**. In 2021, Councilmember Edwards supported the **hiring and onboarding of two new charter officers**: City Clerk Donesia Gause and City Attorney Phaedra Norton.



Councilmember Edwards at a neighborhood coffee gathering in the Wood Streets in October 2021.

COVID-19 RECOVERY

COVID-19 continues to have a profound impact on our City--highlighting a fragile safety net for the most vulnerable and changing the ways Riversiders work and connect with each other. Many of COVID's ripple effects are still unknown. This year, to combat the pandemic's effects, Councilmember Edwards supported **rental and utility assistance** programs, and American Rescue Plan Act funding for **small business and nonprofits (over \$9M in grants and capacity-building), childcare assistance, food security, mental healthcare, and broadband**. Ward 1 hosted a **vaccination site** at the Convention Center to make vaccinations as accessible as possible in critical early days, and still maintains active **COVID testing sites** outside City Hall and via mobile van throughout the ward.



Lot 33 at sunrise on the first day of vaccination distribution in Ward 1.

Thanks for a productive second year in office.

Follow us for more updates:

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Councilmember Edwards, Paloma, and Ruben Ayala of Tippy's Tow for their 9th annual Sandlot Baseball Camp, July 2021.



Councilmember Edwards and family at the first Riverside Pride gathering at Bonaminio Park.